

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
July 18, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Michelle Durocher, Curt Connors, Eileen Coleman, Chris Naylor, Catherine Garnett, and David White of the Commission. Charles Tirone, of the Commission, was not present. Also present were Stephen Applebaum, Waldemer Medeiros, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Lally Stowell, Mike Rademacher, Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer, Gail McCormac and William Fletcher.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Connors motioned to approve the 7/11 **minutes** as edited; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith reported that the intern met with her in the morning to survey the Spy Pond shoreline for **phragmites**. The survey was helpful to determine if the multiple permits for the work can be closed. Ms. Beckwith said the intern may survey the amount and types of invasive species on Conservation Lands.

The Commission received an e-mail from Nancy Putnam at DCR explaining and taking responsibility for the mowing problems at the **Alewife Reservation** near the Greenway project. An abutter had reported cutting in wetland areas. The Commission will ask DCR to assess what damage might have occurred and before DCR does any repair, submit the proposed repair to the Commission for review. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Beckwith to forward the contact information of the neighbors to DCR in order to facilitate a site walk.

Ms. Coleman is coordinating a **Land Stewards** meeting in October, and the board will invite a speaker to this event. Ms. Beckwith can reserve a meeting room, possibly at the Robbins Library.

Mr. White reported on the meeting regarding **invasive plant disposal** in Town. He reported that invasive plants can now be disposed of in the regular trash pick up that goes to be incinerated but it should be placed in plastic bags and marked “weeds”. It should not go in yard-waste bags as those are composted in Lexington and then the composted material would be dispersed to Town property and yards, inadvertently spreading invasives.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – 869 Massachusetts Ave, repair of culverts of Mill Brook, continued from 7/11/2013

Mr. Rademacher was present to answer questions posed by the Commission at the last meeting.

The Commission asked for three conditions of the approval

- 1) That the three trees referred to in the response are marked in the field for review by the Conservation Administrator
- 2) If the large willow is removed, it should be replaced with three 2-3.5 inch red maple, willow or river birch. These can be planted in a clump.
- 3) If possible, leave the large roots or stump of the large willow and only removed these if the entire bank is disturbed. If the stump is left in place, then only 1 tree needs to be replanted.

White/Connors motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

White/Garnett motioned to approve the project with the above conditions; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rademacher informed the board that this project will start on 7/29/2013.

8:15pm – **Notice of Intent** – Mystic River fuel oil spill and clean up work, continued from 7/11/2013

Mr. Applebaum of Clean Harbors explained the involvement of Clean Harbors as the clean up contractor for the company responsible for the 5/31/2013 oil spill, JP Noonan Transportation Inc. They are also the licensed site professional (LSP) under Mass General Laws ch. 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). The oil was mostly removed from the river after only two days. Some small areas of shoreline, mainly in Arlington, a few broken stormdrain outlets and some soil were also impacted. They placed booms across the river for about a week or two (testing was done on 6/5/2013 and 6/10/2013) until testing showed the river water was clean and then the booms were moved to parallel the shoreline in about nine locations. Oil soaked debris (leaves, sticks, trash) was removed. A shoreline assessment was conducted, and hand tools were used to dislodge sediment to liberate oil from leaves, moss, sediment in small areas to look for oil. Handwashing was performed of stones, crevices and some moss was removed that was oil soaked or dying (brown). Most of this assessment is done by looking for visual sheening and smelling for aromatic volatilization.

Since the spill, Clean Harbors has been inspecting the site, at least weekly, but also when the river water elevation is high, low or it rains.

The first step in the MCP review is an Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan which is due on or before July 30, 2013. The following step is either a closure Response Action Outcome (RAO) or an interim IRA status report 120 days after the spill, in September, 2013.

In general, this petroleum product is degradable. Sediment testing along the edge of the waterway and soil testing along the bank will take place.

The Winchester Savings Bank will get a copy of all documents since they are an injured party. The Town will receive notice of all documents and the Conservation Commission will receive full electronic copies of all documents.

White/Connors motioned to continue the hearing, with the applicant's consent, to September 19, 2013; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm **Request for Certificate of Compliance** – 18 Hamilton Rd, Spy Pond Condos shoreline stabilization project, DEP File No. 91-214

Gail McCormac and William Fletcher of the Trustees board at Spy Pond Condominiums were present to answer questions regarding the shoreline project. Mr. Stevens and other Conservation Commission members explained that they wished to completely close out this permit, versus a partial certification, since the work is substantially complete. There are invasive plants along the entire shoreline of the property, but that seems to be separate matter, that could be addressed with a separate maintenance permit/review. New England Environmental may be able to help them compose such a management plan for False Indigo, Oriental Bittersweet, Mugwort, Purple Loosestrife.

Ms. Karpati volunteered that sticking a cut end of the Bittersweet into vinegar kills the plant as it draws the vinegar back down the stem.

Ms. McCormac would bring the proposal to fully close the permit back to the Board of Trustees before agreeing to this course of action.

Coleman/Tirone motioned to continue this matter to the next meeting; motion passed unanimously.

9pm **Discussion** – Spy Pond Park shoreline plantings

Mr. Stevens welcomed members of the Friends of Spy Pond Park, the Park and Recreation Commission, and the DPW Director to continue discussion of their efforts to maintain the planting bed at the shoreline, and the shoreline itself.

Ms. Grossman, Ms. Mayer and Mr. Vitters outlined some of the management issues: soils testing, aggregate trail repair with Staylock material that sunk, mowing, new railing at Linwood, liming, the path rush that is not thriving all over as once thought, drainage and path maintenance, no funding for plants, user fees, small paths in planting beds, the water system, broken water fountains.

The Commission will ask two volunteer Landscape Architects who have expressed interest in assisting the Commission to compose a plan to reestablish new planting beds and solve some the issues at the park.

Commission Business (cont.)

Mr. Stevens reported on discussions ongoing regarding the Conservation areas at the **Symmes project**, funds for maintenance of the Symmes Woods.

Ms. Beckwith asked if the Commission would like to hear a presentation on a new kind of **stormwater treatment**. They agreed to this if it was brief.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator